



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release December 30, 1982

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IDENTIFIES U.S. VERTEBRATES THAT MAY
BE LISTED AS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED

Three-hundred-sixty-three United States fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals that are being considered for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife have been identified by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The list of "candidate" species includes 62 animals for which the Fish and Wildlife Service already has substantial information to support the biological appropriateness of proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened, and for which the preparation and publication of such proposals are anticipated. Also identified are 301 species for which further information is needed to determine whether they qualify for listing.

The majority of candidate species are fish (136), followed by birds (71), mammals (64), reptiles (47), and amphibians (45).

The notice of review, which was published in the December 30, 1982, Federal Register, also list 38 species that are no longer being considered for listing as endangered or threatened. Among these are 14 species that are presumed to be extinct; 6 that are not regarded as taxonomically valid species or subspecies; and 18 that are more widespread than formerly believed or that are not presently subject to any identifiable threat.

The notice requests information concerning the status, taxonomy, and distribution of the listed species; recommendations concerning designation of critical habitat; documentation of threats to any of the species; and nominations of taxa not included in the list. The list of candidate species will be amended periodically to reflect new information or change in the status of the species.

The list of species included in the notice of review may be obtained from the Federal Register document or by writing to the Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments or information on the listed species may also be sent to the above address.

Presently, 296 species that occur in the United States and 468 foreign species are included on the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.